

Beware! Kudzu is Thriving in Indiana

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology is working on a project to eradicate kudzu. What is kudzu? Kudzu is an invasive vine that was introduced to the U.S. from Japan. In the southern U.S this vine can grow a foot per day, and can cover and out-compete native vegetation causing serious damage to the forest ecosystem. It also has the potential to harbor soybean pests and diseases. We are attempting to identify and speak with all land owners that have kudzu on their property and/or are adjacent to wooded areas infested with kudzu, so that we may develop a working relationship to ensure that this invasive species does not harm Indiana's natural resources. If you would like to report a kudzu site, please call **1-866-NOEXOTIC**, or contact the Bloomington field office at 812-332-2241 or email kcote@sbcglobal.net. Additional information can be found at the Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology web site, www.in.gov/dnr/entomolo Thank you for your assistance and cooperation with the project. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the project, please feel free to call.

What does kudzu look like?

Leaves: Kudzu leaves look just like a bean leaf. A single trifoliate leaf is comprised of 3 smaller leaflets. The leaves and vines of young plants are often hairy. Trifoliate leaves can be as large as 10" inches across. Brown leaves often remain on the plant after the first hard freeze but eventually fall of vines by mid winter.



Kenneth Cote

Flowers: Flowers are elongated and pinkish to purple. The usually appear in mid to late summer.



Photo from Jody Shimp Illinois DNR

Seeds: Kudzu has a constricted seed pod and the shape of the individual seeds can be seen in the pod.



Kudzu Distribution



Kudzu can be confused with wild grape, wild cucumber and greenbriar. However, these plants have a simple leaf, not a compound leaf comprised of 3 leaflets. There are native Indiana plants in the bean family that can look similar to kudzu, but their leaves are usually not as large as kudzu and native plants usually do not have the aggressive growth habit that kudzu has. Kudzu vines often cover trees and all other vegetation creating a monotypic landscape.

Greenbriar



Photo from www.discoverlife.org

Wild Cucumber



Photo from www.allcreatures.org

Wild Grape vs. Kudzu



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